LISTING OF CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as shown below. This Listing of the Claims

replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the above captioned

Application.

1. (Currently Amended)   A method for fault management in a distributed

network management station comprising:

initiating a first device coupled to a network, wherein said first device

comprises at least one of a single processing element device, a computing

system, and a blade type computing system compliant with a compact peripheral

component interconnect (PCI) chassis;

broadcasting from said first device an information packet to a plurality of

devices coupled to the network, wherein said information packet helps define

one of said devices as a facilitates establishing a defined master device for said

network; and

resolving status of said first device coupled to said network, wherein said

resolving results in said distributed network management station having said

defined master device being one of said first device and said devices.

2. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said first device

initiates as a secondary device.

3. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said information

packet comprises a participating-device internet protocol (IP) of said first device.

4. (Original)   The method as recited in Claim 3, wherein said information packet also comprises a participating-device message authentication code (MAC) of said first device.

5. (Original)   The method as recited in Claim 3, wherein said information packet further comprises information regarding the previous state of said first device.

6. (Original)   The method as recited in Claim 3, wherein said information packet additionally comprises information regarding a current state of said first device.

7. (Original)   The method as recited in Claim 3, wherein said information packet further comprises information regarding a total system-up-time of said first device.

8. (Original)   The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said status between said first device and said plurality of devices is resolved by an evaluation of each said information packet from said first device and said plurality of devices.

9. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said distributed network management station integrates plug-and-play capability of each of the plurality of devices into said network.

10. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said distributed network management station integrates scalability of each of the plurality of devices into said network.

11. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said distributed network management station integrates self-healing capabilities of each of the plurality of devices into said network.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for fault management in a distributed network management station comprising:

initiating a first device coupled to a network, said first device initiating as a secondary device, wherein said first device comprises at least one of a single processing element device, a computing system, and a blade type computing system compliant with a compact peripheral component interconnect (PCI) chassis;

broadcasting from said first device an information packet to a plurality of devices coupled to the network, wherein said information packet helps define one of said devices as a facilitates establishing a defined master device for said network;

resolving status of said first device coupled to said network, wherein said

resolving results in said distributed network management station having said

defined master device and multiple secondary devices, wherein said defined

master device is one of said first device and said devices; and

initiating a fail-over process, wherein said fail-over process results in said

secondary devices re-evaluation of said master device.

13. (Currently Amended)* The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein

said information packet broadcast by said first device further comprises:

transmitting a participating-device internet protocol (IP) of said first

device[[,]]:

transmitting a participating-device message authentication code (MAC) of

said first device[[,]]:

transmitting information regarding the previous state of said first

device[[,]]:

transmitting information regarding the current state of said first device[[,]]:

and

transmitting information regarding the total system-up-time of said first

device.

14. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein said status

between said first device and said plurality of devices is resolved by an

evaluation of each said information packet from said first device and said

plurality of devices.

15. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein said distributed network management station integrates plug-and-play capability of each of the plurality of devices into said network.

16. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein said distributed network management station integrates scalability of each of the plurality of devices into said network.

17. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein said distributed network management station integrates self-healing capabilities of each of the plurality of devices into said network.

18. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein said secondary devices re-evaluation occurs due to a loss of communication with said master device.

19. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 18, wherein said secondary devices re-evaluation comprises questioning said master device for state or status.

20. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 19, wherein said state or status of said master device comprise[[:]] at least one of [[Said]] said master device in a paused state, said master device in a

crashed state, transmission control protocol (TCP) disconnect from said master

device, and [[or]] overall loss of master device.

21. (Currently Amended)   A computer system comprising:

a bus;

a memory unit coupled to said bus; and

a processor coupled to said bus, said processor for managing faults

executing a method for fault management in a distributed network management

station that comprises comprising:

a first device coupled to a network, said first device initiating as a

secondary device, wherein said first device comprises at least one of a single

processing element device, a computing system, or a blade type computing

system compliant with a compact peripheral component interconnect (PCI)

chassis;

an information packet broadcast from said first device to a plurality

of devices coupled to the network, wherein said information packet helps define

one of said devices as a facilitates establishing a defined master device for said

network;

said defined master device and at least one secondary device,

wherein said defined master device is at least one of said first device and said

devices; and

a fail-over process, wherein said fail-over process results in said

secondary device re-evaluating said master device.

22. (Currently Amended)   The computer system of Claim 21, wherein said information packet comprises <u>at least one of</u>:

a participating-device internet protocol (IP) of said first device[[,]]<u>;</u>

a participating-device message authentication code (MAC) of said first device[[,]]<u>;</u>

information regarding the previous state of said first device[[,]]<u>;</u>

information regarding the current state of said first device[[,]]<u>;</u> and

information regarding the total system-up-time of said first device.

23. (Original) The computer system of Claim 21, wherein said status between said first device and said plurality of devices is resolved by said first device evaluating each said information packet from said first device and any of said plurality of devices.

24. (Currently Amended)   The computer system of Claim 21, wherein said distributed network management station comprises <u>at least one of</u>:

plug-and-play capability of said first device[[,]]<u>;</u>

scalability of said first device[[,]]<u>;</u> and

self-healing capability of said first device.

25. (Original) The computer system of Claim 21, wherein said secondary device re-evaluating said master device due to a loss of communication with said master device.

26. (Original) The computer system of Claim 25, wherein said secondary device re-evaluating comprises questioning said master device for state or status.

27. (Currently Amended)   The computer system of Claim 26, wherein said state or status of said master device comprise at least one of:

a paused state[[,]];

a crashed state[[,]];

a transmission control protocol (TCP) disconnect[[,]] and [[or]]

overall loss of master device.

28. (Currently Amended)   A computer-usable medium having computer-readable program code embodied therein for causing a computer system to perform a method for fault management in a distributed network management station that comprises comprising:

initiating a first device coupled to a network, wherein said first device comprises at least one of a single processing element device, a computing system, or a blade type computing system compliant with a compact peripheral component interconnect (PCI) chassis;

broadcasting from said first device an information packet to a plurality of devices coupled to the network, wherein said information packet helps define one of said devices as a facilitates establishing a defined master device for said network; and

resolving status of said first device coupled to said network, wherein said

resolving results in said distributed network management station having said defined master device being one of said first device and said devices.

29. (Original) The computer-usable medium of Claim 28, wherein said first device initiates as a secondary device.

30. (Original) The computer-usable medium of Claim 28, wherein said information packet comprises a participating-device internet protocol (IP) of said first device.

31. (Original) The computer-usable medium of Claim 30, wherein said information packet also comprises a participating-device message authentication code (MAC) of said first device.

32. (Original) The computer-usable medium of Claim 30, wherein said information packet further comprises information regarding the previous state of said first device.

33. (Original) The computer-usable medium of Claim 30, wherein said information packet additionally comprises information regarding a current state of said first device.

34. (Original) The computer-usable medium of Claim 30, wherein said

information packet further comprises information regarding a total system-up-time of said first device.

35. (Original) The computer-usable medium of Claim 28, wherein said status between said first device and said plurality of devices is resolved by said first device evaluating each said information packet from said first device and any of said plurality of devices.

36. (Original) The computer-usable medium of Claim 28, wherein said distributed network management station integrates plug-and-play capability of said first device into said network.

37. (Original) The computer-usable medium of Claim 28, wherein said distributed network management station integrates scalability of said first device into said network.

38. (Original) The computer-usable medium of Claim 28, wherein said distributed network management station integrates self-healing capabilities of said first device into said network.

39. (Currently Amended)   A mechanism for creating a distributed network management station comprising:

a means for initiating a first device coupled to a network, wherein said first device comprises at least one of a single processing element device, a computing system, or a blade type computing system compliant with a compact peripheral component interconnect (PCI) chassis;

a means for broadcasting from said first device an information packet to a plurality of devices coupled to the network, wherein said information packet helps define one of said devices as a ~~facilitates establishing a defined~~ master device for said network; and

a means for resolving status of said first device coupled to said network, wherein said means for resolving results in said distributed network management station having a said defined master device being one of said first device and said devices.

40. (Original) The mechanism for creating a distributed network management station as described in Claim 39, wherein said first device initiates as a secondary device.

41. (Original) The mechanism for creating a distributed network management station as described in Claim 39, wherein said information packet comprises a means for a participating-device internet protocol (IP) of said first device.

42. (Original) The mechanism for creating a distributed network management station as described in Claim 41, wherein said information packet also comprises a means for a participating-device message authentication code (MAC) of said first device.

43. (Original) The mechanism for creating a distributed network management station as described in Claim 41, wherein said information packet further comprises a means for providing information regarding the previous state of said first device.

44. (Original) The mechanism for creating a distributed network management station as described in Claim 41, wherein said information packet additionally comprises a means for providing information regarding a current state of said first device.

45. (Original) The mechanism for creating a distributed network management station as described in Claim 41, wherein said information packet further comprises a means for providing information regarding a total system-up-time of said first device.

46. (Original) The mechanism for creating a distributed network management station as described in Claim 39, wherein said status between said first device and said plurality of devices is resolved by said first device utilizing an

evaluation means for each said information packet from said first device and any of said plurality of devices.

47. (Original) The mechanism for creating a distributed network management station as described in Claim 39, wherein said distributed network management station comprises a means for integrating plug-and-play capability of said first device into said network.

48. (Original) The mechanism for creating a distributed network management station as described in Claim 39, wherein said distributed network management station comprises a means for integrating scalability of said first device into said network.

49. (Original) The mechanism for creating a distributed network management station as described in Claim 39, wherein said distributed network management station comprises a means for integrating self-healing capabilities of said first device into said network.